

State Revolving Fund – NonPoint Source Ranking Criteria

NonPoint Source projects are ranked on the Project Priority List (PPL) in descending order based on the following criteria. The parenthetical information is the notation that appears on the PPL.

a) Enforcement (Enf. Pts.): *If the proposed nonpoint source project is necessary to comply with an order, permit or other document issued by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality(MDEQ) director or water resources commission or entered as part of an action brought by the MDEQ against a municipality, 200 points will be assigned.*

If the applicant has been issued an administrative consent order, an National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit which requires construction of the project, or other similar document by the department, the proposed project will be awarded 200 points. If none of these actions have been taken, no points will be awarded.

b) *If the proposed project is a necessary component of a comprehensive plan developed pursuant to the provisions of R 323.1064, 100 points will be assigned.*

No points will be assigned based upon this subrule. This rule reference is no longer a viable reference for nonpoint source programs. Rule 323.1064 was not superceded, but no longer viable.

c) Water Quality (Water Quality Points): *If the project will address violations of water quality standards in the watershed or project area, points will be assigned based upon the severity of the receiving water impairment that the proposed project will abate. Each project will receive a score of between 1 and 100 for each standard violated based on the severity of the violation. Maximum of 400 points may be assigned for each project.*

Points will be assigned based on the estimated pre- and post-project levels of microorganisms, phosphorus, nitrogen and total suspended solids in the waterbody primarily affected by the project.

d) High Quality (High Quality): *If the watershed contains high quality waters which must be maintained, 200 points will be assigned.*

Using high quality waters as defined in the administrative rules for the Clean Michigan Initiative-Clean Water Fund (R 324.8904, Rule 4, (a) (i-vii) as attached, 0 or 200 points will be assigned.

e)High Public Use (Use Value): *If the watershed has high public use value, 200 points will be assigned.*

High public use value of a watershed will be defined as watersheds containing two or more of the following:

- 1) **An existing city, county, village, state or federal parks or recreation areas dedicated for public use for swimming, fishing or boating, or**

- 2) An existing ground water source public drinking water supplier who has an MDEQ-approved wellhead protection program (WHP) and/or an existing surface water source public drinking water supplier who has submitted to MDEQ a source water assessment (SWA) report.
- 3) An existing State of Michigan Natural River designation and/or an existing Federal Wild & Scenic Rivers designation.

[The actual number of park/recreation sites, number of approved WHPs, and number of SWAs within the project's watershed will be totaled and used as a tie-breaker, if needed.]

f) Local Participation (Local Part.): *If there is high landowner or municipal willingness to participate in controlling nonpoint sources in the watershed or project area, 200 points will be assigned.*

High willingness to participate can only be demonstrated by the following: Letters of commitment from local agencies and/or landowners regarding their participation in specific nonpoint source control activities contained in the proposed project plan. General letters of support will not be considered a demonstration of participation.

g) Ongoing Initiatives (Ongoing Int.): *If there are ongoing local, federal, or state nonpoint source initiatives in the watershed or project area, 100 points will be assigned.*

A project will receive 100 points, if federal, state or local initiatives have been implemented voluntarily by the local unit of government having jurisdiction over the project. Qualifying ongoing initiatives must include the following:

- 1) An in-place, comprehensive zoning program which controls development through encouragement of low impact development, open space preservation, restrictive zoning in areas with steep slopes, near water bodies, or highly erodible soils.
- 2) A storm water utility within the local unit which has provides oversight, inspection and/or promotion of nonpoint source pollution prevention programs.
- 3) Successful and timely completion of nonpoint source control projects funded by state or federal grants or loans.
- 4) Implementation of a comprehensive community education and citizen involvement program. This program must be based on knowledge of the audience, careful preparation of the message, demonstration of successfully reaching the audience using a variety of tools, and finally obtain citizen involvement (as feedback, volunteer monitoring, etc) plan.

Note: The proposed project, by itself, will not qualify as an 'ongoing initiative'.